

# Egypt

Check below for updated information on the developing situation in Egypt.  
Remarks by the President  
on Egypt

February 11, 2011  
3:05 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody. There are very few moments in our lives where we have the privilege to witness history taking place. This is one of those moments. This is one of those times. The people of Egypt have spoken, their voices have been heard, and Egypt will never be the same.

By stepping down, President Mubarak responded to the Egyptian people's hunger for change. But this is not the end of Egypt's transition. It's a beginning. I'm sure there will be difficult days ahead, and many questions remain unanswered. But I am confident that the people of Egypt can find the answers, and do so peacefully, constructively, and in the spirit of unity that has defined these last few weeks. For Egyptians have made it clear that nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day.

The military has served patriotically and responsibly as a caretaker to the state, and will now have to ensure a transition that is credible in the eyes of the Egyptian people. That means protecting the rights of Egypt's citizens, lifting the emergency law, revising the constitution and other laws to make this change irreversible, and laying out a clear path to elections that are fair and free. Above all, this transition must bring all of Egypt's voices to the table. For the spirit of peaceful protest and perseverance that the Egyptian people have shown can serve as a powerful wind at the back of this change.

The United States will continue to be a friend and partner to Egypt. We stand ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary -- and asked for -- to pursue a credible transition to a democracy. I'm also confident that the same ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit that the young people of Egypt have shown in recent days can be harnessed to create new opportunity -- jobs and businesses that allow the extraordinary potential of this generation to take flight. And I know that a democratic Egypt can advance its role of responsible leadership not only in the region but around the world.

Egypt has played a pivotal role in human history for over 6,000 years. But over the last few weeks, the wheel of history turned at a blinding pace as the Egyptian people demanded their universal rights.

We saw mothers and fathers carrying their children on their shoulders to show them what true freedom might look like.

We saw a young Egyptian say, "For the first time in my life, I really count. My voice is heard. Even though I'm only one person, this is the way real democracy works."

We saw protesters chant "Selmiyya, selmiyya" -- "We are peaceful" -- again and again.

We saw a military that would not fire bullets at the people they were sworn to protect.

And we saw doctors and nurses rushing into the streets to care for those who were wounded, volunteers checking protesters to ensure that they were unarmed.

We saw people of faith praying together and chanting "Muslims, Christians, We are one." And though we know that the strains between faiths still divide too many in this world and no single event will close that chasm immediately, these scenes remind us that we need not be defined by our differences. We can be defined by the common humanity that we share.

And above all, we saw a new generation emerge -- a generation that uses their own creativity and talent and technology to call for a government that represented their hopes and not their fears; a government that is responsive to their boundless aspirations. One Egyptian put it simply: Most people have discovered in the last few days...that they are worth something, and this cannot be taken away from them anymore, ever.

This is the power of human dignity, and it can never be denied. Egyptians have inspired us, and they've done so by putting the lie to the idea that justice is best gained through violence. For in Egypt, it was the moral force of nonviolence -- not terrorism, not mindless killing -- but nonviolence, moral force that bent the arc of history toward justice once more.

And while the sights and sounds that we heard were entirely Egyptian, we can't help but hear the echoes of history -- echoes from Germans tearing down a wall, Indonesian students taking to the streets, Gandhi leading his people

down the path of justice.

As Martin Luther King said in celebrating the birth of a new nation in Ghana while trying to perfect his own, "There is something in the soul that cries out for freedom." Those were the cries that came from Tahrir Square, and the entire world has taken note.

Today belongs to the people of Egypt, and the American people are moved by these scenes in Cairo and across Egypt because of who we are as a people and the kind of world that we want our children to grow up in.

The word Tahrir means liberation. It is a word that speaks to that something in our souls that cries out for freedom. And forevermore it will remind us of the Egyptian people -- of what they did, of the things that they stood for, and how they changed their country, and in doing so changed the world.

Thank you.END

3:13 P.M. EST

**\*\*Update, February 4\*\***

The overnight update of information on Egypt is below. No evacuation flights were scheduled for today, but consular officers were at the airport to assist U.S. citizens with commercial flights. The Situation in Egypt portion of <http://travel.state.gov> continues to have the most updated information about evacuation matters.

A short readout of Vice president Biden's call with his Egyptian counterpart is pasted below the update, as are remarks by White House Spokesman Gibbs about the violence against journalists.

As a reminder, the Egypt task force is up and running. Public inquiries can be directed to [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or 1-888-407-4747 or 1-202-501-4444 outside the U.S. We also have a dedicated Congressional website for consular matters, including Egypt, at [www.travel.state.gov/congress](http://www.travel.state.gov/congress).

For non-consular issues, you can reach the legislative affairs representative on the task force at [TaskForce-1@state.gov](mailto:TaskForce-1@state.gov) (please start the subject line with "For Legislative Affairs") or 202-647-6611, and ask for the H representative.

The latest update of events: Latest Developments

- Protesters planned large demonstrations today to push President Mubarak from office on the "Day of Departure." PM Shafik appeared on state television February 3 and instructed the Minister of Interior not to interfere with peaceful protests. Defense Minister Tantawi and leaders of the armed forces visited Tahrir Square today.
  - It is uncertain whether anti-Mubarak demonstrators will remain in Tahrir Square or move to regime symbols such as the Presidential Palace after Friday prayers. The military has restricted access to Tahrir Square, is conducting security checks of all entrants, and is trying to prevent supplies from reaching protesters.
  - Violent clashes between pro-Mubarak and anti-government protesters February 3 left four people dead in the town of Sharqiyah.
  - S. Res. 44, sponsored by Senators Kerry and McCain, urging Mubarak to hand over power to a caretaker government and begin a peaceful transition to a democratic society, passed the Senate last night
  - Egypt is expected to dominate the Munich Security Conference February 4-6.
  - The curfew in Cairo remains in effect between 1700 and 0700 Cairo time (1000 and 0000 EST)
  - Status of International Journalists and Civil Society
  - Reports indicate a staffer of Human Rights Watch and a French-Moroccan human rights advocate are scheduled to be released February 4. Six members of the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights were detained.
  - News organizations continue to report attacks and threats of violence against journalists. The Committee to Protect Journalists received 100 reports of journalists being detained or attacked, as well as damage to news organization property. CBS and Washington Post journalists have been released. A Google executive and a Belgian reporter for Reporters Without Borders remain missing.
  - Unidentified individuals entered Alhurra's Cairo news bureau February 3 threatening to kill Alhurra's two on-air journalists if they did not leave the building. As a result, the bureau was immediately closed. Similar threats were made at the production facility for Alhurra's flagship program "Al Youm." Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera reported problems February 3 while broadcasting live scenes from Tahrir Square.
  - Political and Economic Situation
  - The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) rejected VP Soliman's call for national dialogue and noted the constitutional reform process could not be overseen by the current illegitimate government. A leading member of the MB added the group had no ambitions to run for the Egyptian presidency or posts in a coalition government. The MB also rejected any U.S. role in the transition process, alleging "American bullets and tear gas killed youth" in Tahrir Square.
  - Media report signs of slowing cargo operations at the Alexandria and Damietta Ports on the Mediterranean Sea, which handle container and bulk shipments of grains and other goods. Suez Canal traffic has not yet been affected, although employees must leave their posts early to comply with the government curfew. Egypt's Central Bank said it would limit cash withdrawals by individuals but allow unlimited transfers abroad when banks re-open February 6.
- Consular Issues

- No U.S. government evacuation flights are scheduled today. Consular personnel will be at the airport to direct U.S. citizens to available commercial flights. International Reactions
- The website World Wide Tahrir called for sit-ins at Egyptian embassies worldwide February 4.
- Egyptian-Americans in New York City planned a demonstration in Times Square February 4 in support of anti-Mubarak protestors in Cairo.
- EU High Representative Ashton said it was essential the Egyptian government and people "move forward together." Dutch PM Rutte said it would be "gratuitous and arrogant" to call for Mubarak's resignation.
- Ayatollah Khamenei said uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia would spell "irreparable defeat" for the United States, and added the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia represent "Islamic awareness" in the region.

The White House

Office of the President

For immediate release

February 3, 2011 Readout of the Vice President's Call with Egyptian Vice President Omar Soliman

The Vice President today spoke by phone with Egyptian Vice President Omar Soliman, reiterating President Obama's condemnation of the recent violence in Egypt and calling for restraint by all sides. He also restated the President's support for universal rights, including the right to peaceful assembly, association, and speech. Vice President Biden urged that credible, inclusive negotiations begin immediately in order for Egypt to transition to a democratic government that addresses the aspirations of the Egyptian people. He stressed that the Egyptian government is responsible for ensuring that peaceful demonstrations don't lead to violence and intimidation and for allowing journalists and human rights advocates to conduct their important work, including immediately releasing those who have been detained.

Press Secretary Gibbs on Egypt, Violence & Journalists

During his gaggle with the press this morning aboard Air Force One, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs opened the session with pointed remarks about recent developments in Egypt:

MR. GIBBS: Let me -- if I can, let me just start with a few thoughts. I want to reiterate our administration and our country's strong condemnation of the violence and the images that we've seen over the past many hours.

The government of Egypt has to ensure that peaceful protests can take place. We have obviously seen the remarks of the Prime Minister today and hope that his acknowledgment that anybody that is involved in this will be held accountable is something that the government is serious about.

I want to say a word for a second on the systematic targeting of journalists in Egypt. This also is completely and totally unacceptable. Any journalist that has been detained should be released immediately. I think we need to be clear that the world is watching the actions that are taking place right now in Egypt. And I'll reiterate again that the actions of targeting journalists, that is unacceptable, and that those journalists should be, if they are detained, released immediately. I know the President has been briefed on this as part of the daily briefing this morning.

Next, I would like to again reiterate that the -- as we have said all along -- that the time for the transition in Egypt is now, and it is important that we all begin to see meaningful steps toward that transition and that negotiations take place between the government and a broadly based group of members of the opposition as we work through, as I said, the transition toward free and fair elections.

**\*\*Update, February 3\*\***

The evening update of information on Egypt is below.

A new warden message was issued today, regarding evacuation flights. The full message is below the update, but key is that flights will continue tomorrow, but due to the availability of commercial flights and decreased demand for U.S. government flights (today's USG flights were not full) we are assessing the need for further government flights, which are unlikely after Thursday. All remaining U.S. citizens who wish to depart Egypt on a U.S. government flight and who are able to do so should immediately proceed to the HAJ Terminal 1, Hall 4 as soon as possible on February 3. They should not wait for a call from the U.S. Embassy. The information at the Situation in Egypt portion of <http://travel.state.gov> reflects this and continues to have the most recent information.

Also pasted below is an update on evacuation efforts to date.

As a reminder, the Egypt task force is up and running. Public inquiries can be directed to

EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov or 1-888-407-4747 or 1-202-501-4444 outside the U.S. We also have a dedicated Congressional website for consular matters, including Egypt, at [www.travel.state.gov/congress](http://www.travel.state.gov/congress).

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#### The latest update of events: Latest Developments

- Violent clashes erupted between pro- and anti-Mubarak demonstrators in Tahrir Square, including stone-throwing and attacks from protesters mounted on camels and horses. The army did not appear to involve itself aside from initial efforts to separate the two sides. The Egyptian health ministry said three people were killed and over 600 injured in today's battles.
  - Mohamed ElBaradei said he hoped President Mubarak would leave office before February 4, dubbed by anti-government protesters as the "Friday of Departure." He also called on the army to intervene to stop the violence "to protect Egyptian lives." Anti-government protesters said they would not leave Tahrir Square until Mubarak quits.
  - Vice President Soliman said anti-government protests must stop before dialogue can begin with opposition groups.
  - Regular internet service has resumed in Cairo and Alexandria.
  - Newly-appointed Trade Minister Fawzi outlined an emergency plan to get vital foodstuffs and fuel from ports and warehouses to distribution outlets. Food supply has reportedly improved today, with better-stocked shelves and fewer incidents of hoarding. Prices have not risen drastically in most areas.
  - Journalists, including CNN's Anderson Cooper and two AP correspondents, have been roughed up in gatherings of Mubarak supporters. One Al-Arabiya reporter was stabbed. Other international journalists reportedly have been detained.
- #### Security Situation
- Violence in Tahrir Square began this morning after pro-Mubarak organized groups arrived by bus, raising suspicions that they were sponsored by the government despite a statement by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) that they were not involved.
  - Civilians manning checkpoints in some neighborhoods continue attempts to search vehicles.
  - The Embassy is monitoring clashes between pro- and anti-government groups in Sharkiya, escalating violence in Suez, and peaceful protests in Sinai. Pro-Mubarak demonstrations were also held in Alexandria.
  - Palestinian Authority security forces are mobilizing for demonstrations on February 4 and 11 in the West Bank.

#### Consular Situation

- Four U.S. government evacuation flights departed Cairo: one via Luxor to Athens, and the others direct to Frankfurt, Istanbul and Andrews Air Force Base. Over 300 passengers were on these planes.
  - Emergency consular services remain available to U.S. citizens; however, access to the Embassy is very difficult due to the activity in Tahrir Square.
- #### International Reaction
- Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan urged transition to a temporary administration with a road map and schedule as the only way to satisfy the people.
  - Several hundred expatriate Egyptians demonstrated in Doha calling for the end of the Mubarak administration, a large protest by Doha standards with rare Government of Qatar permission. Another protest is scheduled for February 4.
  - British Prime Minister Cameron raised suspicions that Egyptian authorities may be behind attacks on anti-government protestors, warning that any action by the regime to sponsor or tolerate the current violence would be "completely and utterly unacceptable."
  - Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said the Iranian leadership wants to take advantage of the chaos in Egypt to create "another Gaza" run by Islamic fundamentalists and called on Palestinian leaders to see the regional changes as an opportunity to restart peace talks.
  - UNSYG Ban condemned the "unacceptable" violence in Cairo.
  - Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said "political groups inside Egypt should seek consensus themselves" without foreign imposition of "recipes and ultimatums," reaffirming Russia's strategic partnership with Egypt.
  - European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs Ashton urged President Mubarak to speed the transition to elections and offered to increase European Commission support.
  - The Algerian Foreign Minister emphasized the Algerian government's relationship with the people of Egypt.

Warden Message 7: February 1, 2011

#### US Embassy, Cairo

The U.S. Embassy advises U.S. citizens in Egypt that we plan to continue evacuation efforts on Thursday, February 3 and are assessing the need to continue flights after that, in view of the availability of commercial flights and decreased demand for U.S. government evacuation flights. Additional U.S. government flights after Thursday are unlikely.

All remaining U.S. citizens who wish to depart Egypt on a U.S. government flight and who are able to do so should immediately proceed to the HAJ Terminal 1, Hall 4 as soon as possible on February 3. Do not wait for a call from the U.S. Embassy. Further delay is not advisable.

This assistance will be provided on a reimbursable basis, as required by U.S. law. U.S. citizens who travel on US government & arranged transport will be expected to make their own onward travel plans from safehaven locations in Europe. Flights to evacuation points began departing Egypt on Monday, January 31.

The welfare and safety of U.S. citizens in Egypt remains one of State Department's top priorities. Approximately 1,800 U.S. citizens and their family members have been evacuated from Egypt in an operation that began on Monday, January 31.

Immediate family members (spouses and children) who are not U.S. citizens must be documented for entry into the safehaven country and/or U.S., if that is your final destination. All U.S. citizen travelers and their spouses and children, are required to have valid travel documents. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo will assist U.S. citizens with travel documents. U.S. citizens who do not hold a valid U.S. passport or visa and are interested in departing Egypt via USG-chartered transportation should contact the US Department of State and Embassy Cairo by sending an email to [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or by calling 1-202-501-4444

#### Frequently Asked Question:

I'm ready to go. What do I do?

Documented U.S. citizens may proceed to the HAJ Terminal 4 of the airport as of Monday, January 31, 11:00 am.

My child is a U.S. citizen. Can my whole family be evacuated?

A U.S. citizen child may be escorted by one adult, preferably a parent, who has appropriate travel documents. If a family has more than one U.S. citizen child, the one-adult rule still applies.

Do I need a U.S. passport?

All U.S. citizen travelers and their spouses and children, are required to have valid travel documents. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo will assist U.S. citizens with travel documents. U.S. citizens who do not hold a valid U.S. passport or visa and are interested in departing Egypt via USG-chartered transportation should contact the US Department of State and Embassy Cairo by sending an email to [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or by calling 1-202-501-4444.

What do I do if my child is a U.S. citizen, but hasn't yet been documented?

Contact the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. U.S. citizens who do not hold a valid U.S. passport or visa interested in departing Egypt via USG-chartered transportation should contact the U.S. Department of State and Embassy Cairo by sending an email to [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or by calling 1-202-501-4444.

My family members aren't U.S. citizens. Can they travel with me?

The scheduled evacuation flights will transport U.S. citizens and their immediate family members. Immediate family members & defined as spouses and children & who are not U.S. citizens will be required to have travel documentation that will permit their entry into the safe haven destinations. At this time, flights are expected to travel to Istanbul, Turkey, Athens, Greece, and Nicosia, Cyprus. Safe haven destinations may change. U.S. citizens requesting evacuation will not be able to select their safe haven destinations.

Will you fly me to the United States?

Our goal is to get people to a safe place, where they can make their own onward travel arrangements. Travelers will be responsible for their own onward travel arrangements and accommodations in the safe haven city. Consular officers will provide travelers with information on airlines and hotels.

What should I bring?

Travelers should bring valid travel documents and any necessary medications.

Each traveler may bring one suitcase and a small personal carry-on item.

U.S. citizens seeking evacuation should be prepared for a substantial wait at the airport. Travelers are advised to bring food, water, diapers and other necessary toiletries with them to the airport.

What about my pets?

Evacuation flights will not be able to accommodate pets.

Do I have to pay for the flight?

U.S. citizens requesting evacuation will be asked to sign paperwork promising to reimburse the U.S. Government for flight costs at a later date. Exact flight costs are not yet available, but should be comparable to a one-way commercial flight from Egypt to the safe haven location.

How do I get to the airport?

At this time, public transport to include taxis is still operating in Egypt. Status of U.S. Citizen Evacuations from Egypt

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesman  
Washington, DC  
February 2, 2011

The welfare and safety of U.S. citizens in Egypt remains one of the State Department's top priorities. More than 1,900 U.S. citizens and their family members have been evacuated from Egypt in an operation that began on Monday, January 31. We plan to continue evacuation efforts on Thursday, February 3, and are assessing the need to continue flights after that.

We continue with our efforts to assist any U.S. citizens who wish to leave Egypt and are boarding additional flights today. As curfew has been eased by three hours, we expect more U.S. citizens will be able to reach the Cairo airport.

We advise U.S. citizens to avoid demonstrations and carefully proceed to the airport during non-curfew hours. U.S. citizens with passports that expired within the past 10 years may go directly to the airport. Persons with passports that expired more than 10 years ago, should go to the Embassy to obtain a replacement.

Although non-emergency personnel at our Embassy are leaving Egypt under ordered departure status, the Department continues to send personnel into Cairo and to our safe haven locations to assist U.S. citizens. The Embassy remains open for U.S. citizen services only during non-curfew hours.

The most up-to-date information for U.S. citizens in Egypt can be found on our website [Travel.State.Gov](http://Travel.State.Gov). U.S. citizens in Egypt, or persons concerned for their U.S. citizen loved ones in Egypt also may contact the State Department by email at [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or telephone at 1-888-407-4747 (toll-free in the United States and Canada) or 1-202-501-4444 (outside the United States and Canada).

**\*\*Update, February 2\*\***

The overnight update of information on Egypt is below. No new warden messages were issued overnight. The Situation in Egypt portion of <http://travel.state.gov> continues to have the most recent information.

As a reminder, the Egypt task force is up and running. Public inquiries can be directed to [EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov) or 1-888-407-4747 or 1-202-501-4444 outside the U.S.

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The latest update of events: Latest Developments

- Calling President Mubarak's concession not to run in the next presidential election "not enough," protestors and opposition leaders continued demonstrations into the night February 1. Demonstrations are expected to continue February 2.
- An Egyptian military spokesman called for protestors to leave the streets and return to normal life, stating Egyptians "had delivered their message."
- Protestors called for a rally February 4 at Cairo's presidential palace to dislodge Mubarak if he had not stepped down by the week's end.
- Internet service is returning to Egypt after days of an unprecedented cutoff by the government.
- Opposition leader ElBaradei called Mubarak's announcement an "act of deception" that would "extend the agony" in Egypt and create six or seven more months of instability.
- Former presidential candidate Ayman Nour noted Mubarak did not reject the possibility his son Gamal would run for president, calling Mubarak's decision "a unique case of stubbornness that will end in disaster."
- Deputy Chairman of the Muslim Brotherhood Mohammed Habib stated VP Soliman might be a better option than Mubarak staying in power.
- Significant food, water, and fuel shortages remain amid concerns of port disruptions in Egypt.

- Unconfirmed reports indicate former Minister of Interior Habib al-Adli will be referred to military prosecutors after police beat, tear-gassed, and fired rubber bullets at anti-government demonstrators last week.
- Google Inc. began a public search for its head of marketing for the Middle East and North Africa, who has reportedly been missing in Cairo since January 27. Security Situation
- The military regained more control of the streets and numerous check points remain in place in and around Cairo.
- State-run media report the curfew hours would be shortened on February 2 from 1700 until 0700 local (2300 until 1300 EST). Demonstrators were seen camping out in Tahrir Square and are expected to gather again, but not on the scale of the February 1 protests.
- Media report clashes broke out between pro-Mubarak and anti-government protesters in Alexandria shortly after Mubarak's speech. Small demonstrations took place in Aswan where military were present but did not have to intervene. Consular Services
- Emergency embassy consular services remain available to American citizens; however, access to the Embassy remains difficult. International Reactions
- Arab League Secretary General Moussa noted some Egyptians "would need more" than what Mubarak offered, adding he would seriously consider whether to seek the presidency.
- Quartet Representative Blair described Mubarak as "immensely courageous and a force for good" and warned against a rush to elections that could bring the Muslim Brotherhood to power.
- French President Sarkozy called on Egyptian authorities to "do everything possible" to support a concrete and rapid transition process without violence.

**\*\*Update, February 1\*\***

The overnight update of information on Egypt is below. The State Department has ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. Government personnel and dependents from Egypt. (Previously they were authorized to depart.) The press statement on this is pasted below. No new warden message or public service announcement was issued overnight. Please continue to see the information on Egypt at <http://travel.state.gov> for the latest.

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The latest update of events: Latest Developments

- The anticipated "march of a million people" will not be a march, but sit-in demonstrations in Tahrir Square and other locations across the country, including Alexandria. Military tanks and troops have positioned themselves to divert protesters from the presidential palace. Demonstrations are expected to begin between 1400 and 1500 local (0700 and 0800 EST).
- Mobile communications might be disrupted by the government during the demonstrations.
- Egyptian TV is broadcasting coverage of a vocal pro-Mubarak rally near Egyptian TV headquarters. The official estimate of participants is "in the thousands."
- Vice President Soliman announced he would begin a dialogue with the opposition, including the Muslim Brotherhood, and begin to address the socioeconomic concerns of the protesters.
- Reports suggest many Egyptians view Soliman's promise to implement certain reforms as a delaying effort. Protesters will accept nothing less than an end to the current regime and the creation of a transitional government in advance of new elections.
- The Noor Group, Egypt's last remaining functioning internet service provider, was taken offline January 31. The Noor Group supported Egypt's stock exchange and other businesses.
- Google and Twitter launched a new service called Speak-to-Tweet. It allows Egyptians without an internet connection to transmit Twitter messages by dialing a telephone number and leaving a voicemail, which is then automatically transcribed into a message on Twitter.
- Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service downgraded their Egypt debt ratings as a result of the unrest. Security Situation
- The curfew and the "million person" rally continue to impede movement around Cairo. All intercity highways and roads leading to Cairo have been closed, according to press. The main road to the airport passes near the Cairo rally location.
- The curfew remains in effect from 1500 to 0800 local. The curfew was not enforced the evening of January 31. Media report thousands remained in Tahrir Square overnight.
- Train services nationwide and all intercity buses are suspended, media report.
- Egyptian authorities said the Suez Canal is operating normally, with armed guards protecting the waterway. However, many vessels are bypassing Egyptian ports.
- There have been no significant demonstrations in Aswan since January 28. There is a light military presence in the city. U.S. citizens remain in Aswan, the majority of whom are affiliated with organized tour groups. Consular Issues
- Charter flights continue today from Cairo. International Reactions

- Arab League Secretary General Moussa called for a "peaceful transition" from one era to another.
- OPEC Secretary General al-Badri expressed concern about the situation in Egypt.
- The Chinese government sent two aircraft operated by Air China and Hainan Airlines to transport 480 Chinese nationals February 1. Two additional Air China planes are en route to Cairo. A China Southern Airlines plane is flying to Luxor to pick up approximately 220 Hong Kong residents.
- Taiwan intends to evacuate nearly 500 of its residents, using commercial and charter flights.
- Some European airlines, including Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, and Air Berlin, stated their intention to send larger aircraft than usual to meet demand and agreed to provide additional flights for foreign ministries.
- The Japanese government is urging its approximately 600 citizens to leave Egypt.

\*\*\*\*\*US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2011

2011/133STATEMENT BY PHILIP J. CROWLEY,

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRSOrdered Departure Declared for Egypt

On February 1, the Department of State ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. Government personnel and their families from Egypt in light of recent events. The Department of State will continue to facilitate the evacuation of U.S. citizens who require assistance. Cairo airport is open and operating, but flights may be disrupted and transport to the airport may be disrupted due to the protests. U.S. citizens in Egypt who require assistance, or those who are concerned that their U.S. citizen loved one in Egypt may require assistance, should contact the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo at: EgyptEmergencyUSC@state.gov, or at 1-202-501-4444. Please follow the directions on the Embassy website for all other consular inquiries.###

\*\*Update, January 31\*\*

Information on the situation in Egypt is available at <http://travel.state.gov> and now includes a section on Frequently Asked Questions on the situation in Europe, including evacuation information.

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#### Consular Update

- Embassy Cairo is working with Washington to make preparations for the charter flights.
- Embassy Cairo will continue to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens at the embassy January 31.
- The travel warning for Egypt was posted on [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) and Embassy Cairo's website, and sent out as a warden message to all Americans in Egypt registered with the Embassy. The Bureau of Public Affairs and Embassy Cairo worked to disseminate this information via radio stations to reach Americans in Egypt, since internet services and TV remain unreliable. INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- UK PM Cameron, French President Sarkozy, and German Chancellor Merkel, in a joint statement, called for a "broad-based government" and "free and fair elections" in Egypt.
- Arab League Secretary General Moussa, a former Egyptian foreign minister, said he wanted to see a multi-party democracy emerge in Egypt, stating Mubarak needed to respond to mass protests demanding reform, rather than reshuffling ministers.
- The Iraqi government announced it will evacuate Iraqi citizens living in Egypt.
- Oil company Royal Dutch Shell plans to evacuate its international staff and their families.
- Several hundred people demonstrated in front of the Egyptian Embassy in Tunis to express "support to the Egyptian people's uprising". They reportedly chanted, "Mubarak, Ben Ali is waiting for you."

\*\*\*\*\*Egypt: Public Service Announcement for American Citizens

#### Remarks

Janice Jacobs, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs

Washington, DC

January 30, 2011

As Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, I want you to know that the Department of State is very focused on the safety and security of U.S. citizens living and visiting in Egypt.



State Department personnel at our Embassy in Cairo and here in the United States are working round-the-clock to ensure the safety of our Americans. We're monitoring the situation on the ground in Egypt, communicating information and implementing crisis response plans. We are communicating via our website, emails, call centers, social media, radio and television to get information out to U.S. citizens on the ground in Egypt who are understandably worried. We are sending additional consular personnel to Egypt to augment our Embassy staff. Charter flights out of Cairo will begin tomorrow.

We are aware that not all U.S. citizens have internet or cell phone service in Egypt. We do know that many Americans are in contact with friends and family outside of Egypt. Because of communications interruptions, we ask that family and friends in the United States assist us by relaying information to their loved ones in Egypt directly. The most up-to-date information—including evacuation instructions—can be found on our website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

The U.S. Department of State is arranging transportation to safe haven locations in Europe. This assistance will be provided on a reimbursable basis, as required by U.S. law. U.S. citizens who travel on U.S. government—arranged transport will be expected to make their own onward travel plans. We expect initial flights to go into Athens, Istanbul and Nicosia, Cyprus. Consular personnel at those locations will be available to help citizens make their arrangements for lodging and onward travel.

The charter flights are not intended to supplant Americans' existing commercial travel plans. Citizens with ticketed flights should contact their airlines. All U.S. citizen travelers, their spouses and children are required to have valid travel documents.

Again, you can find the most up-to-date information at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Thank you for helping us communicate with U.S. citizens in Egypt. When you reach them, please assure them that their government is focused on their welfare and safety.

January 28

The State Department released the below advisory today for all U.S. citizens in Egypt. We urge all citizens to take extra precaution and follow the guidelines listed below. If there are any emergencies over the weekend, please call 615-714-0386 and leave a voice mail. We will return your call as soon as possible.

**U.S. Citizens facing IMMEDIATE danger should contact the State Department directly at 202-647-5225. Travel Alert**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Bureau of Consular Affairs Egypt January 28, 2011 The U.S. Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to ongoing political and social unrest in Egypt. Violent demonstrations on January 28 took place in several areas of Cairo and other parts of the country, disrupting road travel between city centers and airports. Disruptions in communications included the interruption of internet and mobile telephone service. The Government of Egypt has imposed a curfew from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in Cairo, Alexandria and Suez until further notice. Given this situation, the Department of State urges U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to Egypt at this time and advises U.S. citizens currently in Egypt to defer non-essential movement and to exercise caution. This Travel Alert expires on February 28, 2011. In the event of demonstrations, U.S. citizens in Egypt should remain in their residences or hotels until the situation stabilizes. Security forces may block off the area around the U.S. Embassy during demonstrations, and U.S. citizens should not attempt to come to the U.S. Embassy or the Tahrir Square area at such times. The Embassy duty officer is available to U.S. citizens for emergencies at +20 1 2797-3300 during evening and weekend hours and the American Citizens Services Section can be reached at +20 1 2797-2301 during business hours, Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and at [consularcairoacs@state.gov](mailto:consularcairoacs@state.gov). Demonstrations have degenerated on several occasions into violent clashes between police and protesters, resulting in injuries and extensive property damage. While demonstrations have not been directed toward Westerners, U.S. citizens are urged to remain alert to local security developments and to be vigilant regarding their personal security. The U.S. Department of State strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid all demonstrations, as even peaceful ones can quickly become unruly and a foreigner could become a target of harassment or worse. If caught unexpectedly near a demonstration, U.S. citizens should obey instructions from police and leave the area as quickly as possible. U.S. citizens resident in Egypt should monitor local news broadcasts and U.S. citizen visitors should ask tour guides and hotel officials about any planned demonstrations in the locations they plan to visit. U.S. citizens should carry identification and a cell phone which works in Egypt. U.S. citizens in Egypt are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP) at the following website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. Updated information on travel and security in Egypt may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. For further information, please consult the Country Specific Information for Egypt, as well as the Worldwide Caution. The Embassy is located at 5 Tawfik Diab Street (formerly known as Latin America Street), Garden City, Cairo. For further information, U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's American Citizen Services Unit at 2797-2301 during business hours, Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For emergencies after business hours and on weekends and holidays, U.S. citizens can contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Embassy switchboard on 2797-3300.